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S. H. Rucker

NECROLOGY.—In the death of Dr. ROBLEY DUNGLISON, which, as our readers are doubtless aware, occurred some three months since, not only the medical profession, but the literary and scientific community generally have sustained a heavy loss. Infirm as he was in bodily condition, so that he had been for more than a year retired from all public duty, he was still actively employed in critical examination of books, in commenting upon and advising with regard to works going on or contemplated, and often in affording material assistance to friends who consulted him. Nor did he lay down his well-used pen until within a few days of the close of his life.

Prof. Robley Dunglison was born on the 4th of January, 1798, in "the Lake Country," as it is often called, at Keswick, Cumberland, in the heart of England. His education was at first mercantile, to prepare him for taking charge of the planting interest of his Great Uncle, Joseph Robley, in the West Indies; but this relative dying, he became a medical student, first in his native town, whence he removed to London, placing himself with Charles Thomas Haden, of Sloane Street, as "assistant." He attended a course of lectures in Edinburgh, and one at the "Ecole de Médecine," and several private courses in Paris, after which he passed examination at the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Society of Apothecaries, in London, and commenced there the practice of his profession in 1819. In 1823 he graduated "by examination" in the University of Erlangen, in Bavaria, presenting a thesis on neuralgia. Returning to London, he determined to attend especially to obstetrical practice; was made "Physician Accoucheur" to the Eastern Dispensary, and announced in 1824 a course of lectures on "The Principles and Practice of Midwifery," for the following October. Meanwhile, however, he had made arrangements for emigrating to this country. In the course of that autumn, Francis W. Gilmer, sent over by the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia to select Professors, had invited him to accept a Chair, the duties of which comprised instruction in "Anatomy, Surgery, the History of the Progress and Theories of Medicine, Physiology, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy," which invitation he accepted.

By this time, as would be inferred from his appointment, he had attained for himself a good position, and acquired not a little professional reputation. He had edited and translated Larrey's Essay on Moxa, Magendie's Formulary of New Remedies, and Hooper's Surgeon's Vade Mecum; had contributed largely to the "London Medical Repository," in which he was a collaborator with the erudite Copland, the "Medical Intelligencer," the "Annals of Philosophy," the "Quarterly Journal of Science and the Arts," the "London Quarterly Review," the "Eclectic Review," and the "Universal Review," then conducted by the Rev. George Croly, and had published an original work entitled, "Commentaries on Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels of Children."

In October, 1824, he married Harriette, daughter of John Leadam, Esq., Practitioner of Medicine in Southwark, London, and completed his arrangements for emigration. He left London in that month, but owing to numerous delays, and a long voyage, being detained six weeks in the channel, he did not reach the American coast until February 10th, 1825, landing at Norfolk, whence he proceeded to his new home at Charlottesville.

There he resided many happy years, during which he enjoyed the intimate friendship of Presidents Jefferson and Madison. Nor was he idle during this period. Besides his popular and instructive prelections on the several topics named above, he produced there his highly esteemed works on "Human Physiology," "Elements of Hygiene," "General Therapeutics," "Syllabus of Lec-

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tures on Medical Jurisprudence," and the first edition of his "Medical Dictionary," in its later forms so universally received.

In May, 1833, he was elected to a Chair in the University of Maryland, and removed to Baltimore, where, however, he did not remain long. His connection with Jefferson Medical College commenced in 1836, and in that year he became a resident of this city, where he died on the 1st of April, 1869. The final reorganization of the College in 1841, and the very successful rise, progress, and elevation of the institution were in a great measure brought about by the energy, reputation, and high administrative talent of Dr. Dunglison, and form a large portion of the great distinction he attained, and the world-wide eminence accorded universally to his name. He continued, in the midst of his official and professorial duties, to labour indefatigably with his pen. Edition after edition of his great Dictionary was called for and issued from the press with progressive and valuable improvements. He put forth a work on "New Remedies;" wrote "The Medical Student, or Aids to the Study of Medicine;" "The Practice of Medicine," in 2 vols.; and "Elements of Hygiene; or a Treatise on Human Health;" besides editing Translations from the German and French, and a periodical, "The American Medical Library and Intelligencer."

It is not our purpose, nor is this the place or the occasion, to engage in any critical dissertation on the value of these and the other productions of Prof. Dunglison not enumerated here. It is well known that they were well received at the time of their publication, took the position of standards on their several topics, and most of them passed through several editions. His Dictionary retains and will long retain its position as an unequalled compilation of professional knowledge and learning. The mere record of the career we have thus briefly sketched constitutes a monument as lasting as time itself in honour of the subject of such a memorial.

Professor Dunglison was during the latter half of his life, permanently an invalid; yet such was his fortitude and energy that he did not allow his infirmities or sufferings to interfere with the performance of his numerous and varied duties. Gout had made him exceedingly lame; but when unable to walk he would ride to college, and when unable to stand he would sit during the delivery of his lectures. For many years the symptoms of cardiac disease were urgent and alarming. Intermission of pulse with dyspnoea and afterwards painful and menacing attacks of angina were ultimately followed by dropsical accumulation, which, added to his other annoyances, at last forced even his elastic and tenacious resolution to succumb, and he resigned his chair with the reluctant consent and unaffected regret of his colleagues, in the spring of 1868. The trustees of the College, when accepting his resignation, immediately conferred upon him the well-deserved title of "Emeritus Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence."

From every quarter and in every form expressions of sorrow at the necessity of his retirement were offered him; and he attained the rare enjoyment of knowing how widely and affectionately he was beloved and esteemed. It is given to few among us to meet with such disinterested expressions of attachment and regard.

The progress of his maladies—for their name was legion—singularly slow, was, however, uninterrupted, and he gradually grew worse, retaining in the midst of all discomfort, privation, and pain, the clearness of his intelligence and his capacious memory. It was impossible to render him indifferent to the welfare of his friends, or the interest of the beneficent institutions with which he had been connected. Especially did he keep up his warm sympathies with the blind, whom he had always made objects of peculiar attention. For many years he had been "Chairman of the Committee of Instruction" in the admirable Institution for the Blind in this city, and had laboured most earnestly and patiently in the preparation of a Dictionary for their use, in connection with Mr. Chapin, the Principal.

The high appreciation in which Prof. Dunglison was held abroad and at home may be measured in some degree by the numerous diplomas and certificates of honorary fellowship which accumulated upon him. Before he left England he was Member or Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons; the Society of

Apothecaries; the Hunterian Society; and the Medical Society of London; the University of Erlangen; the Linnæan Society of Paris; the Royal Society of Arts-Letters, &c., of Nancy; the Société de Médecine of Paris; the Royal Academy of Marseilles; the Society of Pharmacy of Paris; the Physico-Medical Society of Erlangen; the Academic Society of Medicine of Marseilles, &c. &c.

But the list, too extensive to be made complete here, even in this youthful stage of his life, became by frequent additions truly enormous; amounting to more than a hundred, among which are to be included almost every scientific, literary, and academical body of repute on this side of the Atlantic. It should be remarked too that in all those admitting personal presence, he was no inactive member, taking generally a full share of labours as officer or chairman of committee. Thus he soon became Dean of Jefferson College, whose affairs he administered with eminent success. He died President of the Musical Fund Society. He had been Vice-President of the Sydenham Society of London; of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind; and of the American Philosophical Society.

A post-mortem inspection of his remains exhibited an almost unexampled extent and diversity of diseased conditions. The semilunar valves of the aorta were osseous cups, the coronary arteries of the heart ossified, and the organ itself considerably hypertrophied. The arteries generally were not only filled with plates and rings of bone, but strikingly morbid on the internal surface, presenting everywhere lines and fissures, and degeneration. The gall-bladder contained a calculus of great size, and the hepatic duct was filled with smaller concretions. The kidneys were rugose, dark coloured, and studded with serous cysts.

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